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APPROVED BY: AF: GEMOOSE

AF/C: KCAISTON

AF/C: RJFENDRICK

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE
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AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY HARARE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGUI
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
CJCS WASHDC 0000
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
SECDEF WASHDC 0000
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 192840

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: PREF PREL PHUM RW CG UN BE

SUBJECT: US EFFORTS WITH RPF TO OBTAIN CEASE-FIRE

REF: (A) 94 STATE 189038

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: BETWEEN JULY 15 AND JULY 18, SEVERAL DEADLINES FOR THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF UNILATERAL RPF CEASE-FIRES PASSED. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH RPF REPRESENTATIVES OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, A/S MOOSE, DAS BUSHNELL, AND AF DIRECTOR RENDER MADE AN ALL-OUT EFFORT TO GET THE RPF TO CALL A CEASE-FIRE AND A PULL-BACK OF ITS TROOPS. A/S MOOSE WAS UNABLE TO CONTACT GEN. KAGAME, BUT ON JULY 18 HE RECEIVED ASSURANCES FROM KAGAME'S DEPUTY, DR. NDAHIRO, THAT THE RPF WOULD DECLARE A

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CEASE-FIRE AT MIDNIGHT JULY 18. IN A CONVERSATION ON JULY 17 WITH DIRECTOR RENDER, CHARLES MURIGANDE, THE RPF'S REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON, HAD MADE SIMILAR ASSURANCES, AND HAD STATED AS WELL THAT THE RPF WOULD ANNOUNCE THE FORMATION OF A NEW GOVERNMENT AT 12 NOON ON JULY 18, THOUGH NO ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE. DAS BUSHNELL WAS UNABLE TO MAKE CONTACT WITH KAGAME REGARDING HIS JULY 14 ASSERTION TO HER THAT A CEASE-FIRE WOULD BE CALLED THE EVENING OF JULY 15 (REF A). DAS BUSHNELL ALSO SPOKE WITH NDAHIRO OVER THE WEEKEND TO REITERATE THE USG POSITION AND TO URGE THE RPF TO ACT IMMEDIATELY.

3. A/S MOOSE ATTEMPTED TO CONTACT RPF COMMANDER KAGAME TWICE ON JULY 18. KAGAME WAS NOT IN KIGALI SO A/S MOOSE SPOKE TO HIS DEPUTY, DR. NDAHIRO, AND ASKED HIM TO CONVEY THE USG'S MESSAGE URGENTLY TO KAGAME. NDAHIRO REPORTED THAT KAGAME HAD BEEN IN GISENYI TRYING TO ESTABLISH ORDER. A/S MOOSE ONCE AGAIN URGED THAT THE RPF AGREE TO AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE. HE EXPLAINED THAT EVEN IF THE RPF HAD NO INTENTION OF HARMING CIVILIANS, THEY HAD TO DEAL WITH REALITY, WHICH WAS THAT THE HUTU POPULATION FEARED THEM AND THE RPF'S CONTINUED FIGHTING ONLY FUELED THAT FEAR. A/S MOOSE POINTED OUT THAT THE PROSPECTS FOR PROVIDING HUMANITARIAN RELIEF TO OVER A MILLION NEW

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REFUGEES WERE NOT GOOD AND THAT THE ONLY SOLUTION WAS TO STOP THE FLOW AND START THE PROCESS OF RETURN. NDAHIRO RESPONDED THAT MUCH OF THE FLIGHT WAS INCITED BY INTERIM GOVERNMENT FORCES. A/S MOOSE SAID THAT MAY BE TRUE BUT THAT THE RPF MUST STILL CHANGE ITS OWN BEHAVIOR IF THE REFUGEE FLOW IS TO BE REVERSED.

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4. IN THEIR FIRST CONVERSATION, DR. NDAHIRO REPORTED THAT THE RPF WOULD FORMALLY ANNOUNCE A CEASE-FIRE THE NEXT DAY WHEN THE NEW GOVERNMENT WAS ANNOUNCED. A/S MOOSE SAID THE ANNOUNCEMENT COULD NOT WAIT, THAT EACH HOUR ONLY BROUGHT MORE REFUGEES AND MORE HUMAN SUFFERING. HE STRESSED THAT CONTINUED FIGHTING SERVED NO POLITICAL OR MILITARY PURPOSE. THE RPF SHOULD STOP NOW AND SHOULD PULL BACK ITS TROOPS TO REASSURE THE LOCAL POPULATION AND REMOVE THEIR INCENTIVE TO FLEE. A/S MOOSE URGED A SIMILAR PULL BACK FROM THE VICINITY OF THE FRENCH SAFE ZONE. CONTINUED OPERATION IN THAT AREA ONLY RISKED A CONFRONTATION. HE ASSURED NDAHIRO THAT WE WOULD PRESS THE FRENCH NOT TO ALLOW ATTACKS FROM WITHIN THE SAFE ZONE AND OUTLINED OUR EFFORTS IN THE UN TO GIVE THE FRENCH AND OTHERS THE AUTHORITY TO DETAIN PERSONS WHO ARE REASONABLY BELIEVED TO HAVE COMMITTED SERIOUS VIOLATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW.

5. ALTHOUGH A/S MOOSE CALLED BACK LATER IN THE DAY, KAGAME STILL HAD NOT RETURNED. DR. NDAHIRO TOLD A/S MOOSE THAT THE RPF NOW INTENDED TO DECLARE A CEASE-FIRE AT MIDNIGHT THAT NIGHT, RATHER THAN THE NEXT DAY. A/S MOOSE REITERATED HIS CALL FOR AN RPF PULL BACK AND ASKED WHETHER PUTTING UNAMIR OR NGO'S IN THE AREA VACATED WOULD FACILITATE SUCH A WITHDRAWAL. NDAHIRO SAID THAT NGO'S WERE ALREADY WORKING IN RPF TERRITORY AND WILLING TO GO IN, BUT IT HAD NOT HAD THE DESIRED EFFECT. HOWEVER, HE TOOK A/S MOOSE'S SUGGESTION UNDER ADVISEMENT AND IT WAS AGREED THAT A/S MOOSE AND KAGAME WOULD SPEAK AT 8:00 AM (EST) THE FOLLOWING DAY (JULY 19).

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6. ON JULY 17, DIRECTOR RENDER URGED MURIGANDE TO CALL AN IMMEDIATE CEASE-FIRE AND TO APPEAL TO THE HUTUS WHO HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY TO RETURN TO RWANDA. MURIGANDE RESPONDED THAT BOTH A CEASE-FIRE AND A NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE ANNOUNCED AT 12 NOON ON JULY 18, BUT FIRST REGISTERED HIS CONCERN THAT THE TANZANIAN GOVERNMENT HAD PERMITTED GATETE TO LEAVE BENACO TO GO TO GOMA. HE STATED THAT GATETE'S RELEASE INDICATED THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WAS AVOIDING BRINGING TO RETRIBUTION THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR GENOCIDE. RENDER REMINDED HIM THAT THE USG SUPPORTS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL, AND ASSURED MURIGANDE THAT GATETE "WILL GET HIS." MURIGANDE ALSO COMPLAINED ABOUT THE FRENCH FAILURE TO DISARM RGF FORCES AND ALLEGED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ATTACKS AGAINST THEIR FORCES FROM THE FRENCH ZONE. HE DISAVOWED RPF RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE SHELLING OF GOMA, SAYING THAT THE RPF HAD NO MORTARS, AND THAT EVEN IF THEY HAD THEM, RPF FORCES WERE NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO GOMA TO HAVE SHELLED THE CITY. THE SAME DAY, UN DPKO IQBAL RIZA INFORMED A/S MOOSE THAT HIS SOURCES WERE ALSO REPORTING AN IMMINENT CEASE-FIRE AND GOVERNMENT FORMATION.

7. IN A JULY 17 CONVERSATION WITH A/S MOOSE, UNHCR COMMISSIONER OGATA REPEATED HER URGENT CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE FOR REFUGEES IN GOMA, SAYING THAT THE SITUATION WAS DESPERATE AND THAT THE UNHCR WORKERS WERE OVERWHELMED BY THE MAGNITUDE OF THE CRISIS AND FRIGHTENED FOR THEIR OWN SAFETY GIVEN THE INSTABILITY OF THE SITUATION. A/S MOOSE PLEDGED THAT THE USG WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO ASSIST UNHCR EFFORTS.

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8. MINIMIZE CONSIDERED.

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